PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

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Strike looms, students need communism

CHICAGO, OCTOBER 9—For anti-racist learning and working conditions, education workers are set to strike on October 17.

The Chicago Teachers Union's (CTU) leadership fights within the confines of a capitalist system that can never meet workers' needs. Whether or not education workers go on strike next week, students, parents, and workers alike need to continue fighting for anti-racist conditions and push the limits of what's possible under capitalism. Progressive Labor Party's (PLP) ultimate goal is to organize a revolution to overthrow capitalism, seize state power, and create a communist society.

Antiracist demands

The Chicago Public Schools serve 360,314 students—84 percent of which are Black or Latin, and 77 percent of which are working class living in low income households(cps.edu).

The issues are beyond demands for pay and health insurance costs. Demands include: an anti-racist curriculum; sanctuary schools with more Black and Latin teachers; smaller class sizes; nurses, librarians, and social workers in every building; and improved working conditions for educators and custodial workers(The custodial workers suffer from poor pay and lousy conditions).They also demand access to affordable housing for students and workers. In addition to the nearly 17,000 homeless students, "about two-thirds of teaching assistants, school clerks and other paraprofessionals qualify for free or reduced lunch for their children" (Chicago Tribune, 10/9). Most of these demands are not legal to strike over (see box).

The 25,000 teachers are ready to strike; another 10,000 support staff and Park District workers are also prepared to walk off the job.

For the first time, educators are poised to be on strike at the same time as the hospital and homecare/nursing home workers of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Building unity across different sectors will be crucial to the gains workers can make in the class struggle. w

The progressive trap

Don't trust politicians. The fact that Lori Lightfoot is the first Black gay woman mayor is a distraction from her liberal misleadership. Lightfoot co-signed on the billion-dollar construction of a new elite Chicago neighborhood, Lincoln Yards. These funds should have gone towards housing, education, or healthcare. She recently nominated Allison Arway for Health Commissioner. Arway helped close half of the City's mental health facilities. When workers protested to stop a new $95 million kkkop academy, Lightfoot responded by saying she wanted to spend even more.

Workers should not be fooled by the identity politics of these government leaders who serve to keep the capitalist system running. In the same vein, the union bosses shouldn't fool us either.

While Mayor Lightfoot is resisting contract demands, the CTU bosses have become quiet on the demands around sanctuary schools, rent control, and the city providing housing for students in these final weeks.

PLP members and friends are part of CTU and are organizing teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, and students to support demands to improve Chicago's schools. At the same time, they promote the idea that only communism can provide students a worthy education. No amount of reform can eradicate the foundation of slavery and racism that built this system.

A "good education" necessitates a system built with the sole purpose of meeting all students' needs. Capitalism will never provide that because the purpose of schools under this system is to prepare working-class students to be soldiers, wage slaves, or apologists and managers of capitalism.

Students in a communist society will be part of the learning and building of a world based on workers' needs, not profits.

Contracts and laws don't protect workers

In 1995, Illinois passed a racist law limiting what teachers can strike over. This law only applied to Chicago, a district where 80 percent of the students are Black or Latin. Now most schools don't have a librarian and only have a nurse one day a week(see page 7).

In the mostly white school districts, teachers have the right to strike over these issues. Those schools also have nurses, social workers, and librarians. The union leadership operates within the confines of legality regarding a strike, and this limits the potential for sharper class struggle. The bosses should not set limits and terms of what workers can strike over.

Capitalist laws are written for the purpose of keeping workers down. Just as students and workers in the 1960s illegally sat in at segregated lunch counters and as West Virginia teachers illegally struck last year, education workers must strike over what students need, legal or not.

No contract can protect workers from imperialist wars, racist police killings, or ICE raids. A contract can temporarily push bosses to a stalemate, but because the bosses have state power, workers are always at the mercy of the ruling class. One year after the militant CTU strike of 2012, the Chicago capitalists closed 50 schools, overwhelmingly in Black communities that could've been centers for potential fight back.

2019, the year of strikes

In Chicago, workers have witnessed a strike wave. It started with charter school teachers from Acero who waged a militant fight in December 2018, the first of its kind. In the following months, teachers at CICS and other charter schools also struck. Each of these strikes won many concessions that CTU is now fighting for at public schools. In March, graduate student workers at the University of Illinois at Chicago struck for the first time, winning significant gains.

More recently nurses at the University of Chicago on the South Side went on strike and nurses from Mt. Sinai, on the city's West Side, have just authorized one. The capitalist class holds state power—everything from mayors and union leaders to schools and media make up that state power. For students to have an education that empowers them, we need to organize and smash this capitalist state.

Strikes, when organized and led by communists, can be schools for communist ideas and influence. Through the class struggle, workers can gain confidence and realize the potential for our power. The full realization of that potential requires workers to be part of Progressive Labor Party's revolutionary communist movement.✪

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

China at 70

A Betrayal of communist revolution

Xi Jinping's capitalist government recently "celebrated" the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese bosses displayed the new Dong Feng 41 hypersonic ballistic missile, which can reach any target within the U.S. These traitors to the Chinese Communist Revolution were sending a clear message to their main imperialist rival: They are ready to claim the position as the capitalist world's top dog. The Chinese bosses are ready to go to war to claim that position, even if it means spilling the blood of millions of workers.

The workers of the world celebrate October 1, 1949, as the day when our class, led by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), hailed the Party's triumph over the bourgeois nationalists, who were backed by the U.S. Although the Chinese communists made many mistakes, they correctly placed their confidence in workers' ability to seize state power and build a communist society. They advanced the international struggle for communism, most significantly during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR), which strengthened the theory and practice of collective organization of society and the economy.

Cultural Revolution: transforming society

During the GPCR, the young Red Guards launched a fierce struggle against capitalist ideology and practice inside the Party and within the working class. Championing political over economic incentives, the Cultural Revolution represented "a social transformation that was—in its origins—an attempt to prevent revisionism from taking hold in China's Communist Revolution….[I]t was an attack on the class privilege that arose from socialist China's bureaucratic system, and … an argument that class behavior should matter more than class background" (Origins, Ohio State University, August 2016). Nonetheless, the cult of the personality of Mao and the right-wing opportunism of the Party's leadership smashed the GPCR and the Red Guards.

It is important to remember the extraordinary achievements of the Revolution. What was once considered impossible, the Communists transformed into living reality. The barefoot doctors extended healthcare to all and eradicated many diseases like syphilis and schistosomiasis. Decades later, their achievement was recognized by the World Health Organization as "a successful example of how to solve the shortage of medical services in rural areas" (BBC World, March 2018). Life expectancy was doubled, the "most rapid increase of any population in documented global history." Infant and child mortality was reduced by 50-70 percent (Population Studies, 2015 vol. 69, no.1). Communists also eliminated sexist practices like prostitution, foot-binding, and forced marriages. Illiteracy was nearly eliminated: "the literacy programs mounted in China after 1949 constitute what is perhaps the single greatest educational effort in human history" (University of British Columbia Press, 1997).

Additionally, Communist China served as a beacon of hope for workers' fightback everywhere, from Africa to Latin America to a fledgling Progressive Labor Party in the United States.

But most of these advances could not be sustained, because Mao and the Party leadership ultimately lost confidence in the working class. They allied themselves with "lesser-evil" capitalists. China today is the antithesis of workers' power, a complete betrayal of the communist society that the CCP originally fought for.

Lies and concentration camps

The 70th anniversary of this great event in working-class history was cynically used by China's bosses to exploit nostalgia for Mao and the Revolution among workers in China. Xi invoked national unity and sentimentalist patriotism in an attempt to falsely legitimize his economic policies as communist. Why would a fascist government seek to label it communist? It is because 70 years later, China's workers still remember what once was. In the name of communism, students and workers today are fighting back and rebuilding the true essence of revolutionary Maoism.

In response, China unleashed its brutal state apparatus of surveillance and arrests (The Guardian, 11/12/2018). The bosses' fascist call for national unity has led to the destruction of scores of mosques in Xinjiang, along with the imprisonment of millions of Muslims in concentration camps and the use of new technologies like facial recognition to monitor and control the entire region (ABC International, 5/7/2019).

Potentially a ruler for life, Xi Jinping presents his grip on the CCP as essential for modernization and a stronger economy. In reality, the Chinese bosses are using fascism to prepare for sharper competition and eventually war with competing imperialists. Meanwhile, they are extending their economic power by developing multilateral financial institutions like the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, an alternative to the U.S.-controlled World Bank and the Japanese-controlled Asian Development Bank (Bloomberg 8/6/2018). Similarly, the Chinese bosses' Belt and Road Initiative is designed to create a Eurasian economic corridor that will strengthen China's industrial sector, its business vitality, and its control over the latest technology (National Bureau of Asian Research, 4/11), all while enhancing the Chinese bosses' geopolitical and military position.

After receiving massive investments from the Chinese bosses, capitalist rulers in Greece and Hungary have defied the U.S. bosses. Even more troubling to the main wing of the U.S. ruling class is that Germany, the largest economy in the European Union, now has more trade with the Chinese capitalists than with the U.S. If the Chinese bosses continue to rise at the U.S. bosses' expense, a global military conflict can be only a matter of time.

The red guards were right

The Progressive Labor Party recognizes the enormous historical advances of the revolutionary communists of China. We are their heirs. We fight directly for a communist society as workers' only alternative to the horrors of capitalism, fascism, and imperialist war. Like the Red Guards of China, we have confidence that our class will again embrace communist ideas and revolt for a communist world. ✪

Kolkata students fight local fascist scum

KOLKATA, INDIA, October 1—Students of Jadavpur University (JU), in the city of Kolkata, have proven that they are equipped to resist the racist and sexist attacks of India's largest Hindu-fascist student group. They trapped a pro-fascist government minister, resisted the police, and beat back an attempted campus invasion of the fascist scum attempting to retaliate!

The students' mass bravery shows once again that only mass movements of students and workers can defeat fascist movements. These students' next target should be the fascist international liberal order (see box). The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party salutes and stands with the JU students and we call on them to help build a mass international PLP to smash the capitalist system spawning these fascists around the world!

University students unite...

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is a fascist movement. Its racist "Hindutva" or Hindu-only identity politics ideology, backed by racist and sexist violence, was created and funded by Hindu capitalists. RSS organizes among Hindu workers and students to promote fundamentalist religious Hindu policies to split the working class with racism against Muslims, Christians and Dalits (the lowest caste Hindus). The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the political party allied with RSS, which runs the government. In recent years there have been lynchings and other killings of Muslims and Dalits by supporters of RSS.

On the eventful afternoon of September 20, JU's anti-fascist students exposed a campus event by the ABVP (the student wing of the RSS) for what it was—a pro-fascist political rally pretending to be a welcome meeting for first-year students. Thanks to the antifascist students, hardly anyone attended.

...and explode against fascist scum

The students erupted in protest! They trapped the minister and his bandits for hours before the governor of the state (a Central Representative and RSS stooge) rushed in with a large contingent of police and rescued the minister. During this commotion, hooligans of ABVP broke into the campus and molested female students. They also vandalized and set on fire the Arts Faculty student union room. Condemnation of such a vicious act came from every quarter.

A subsequent attempt by the BJP to storm the JU campus came on September 25. They were resisted by the students, teachers, and other campus workers who jointly formed a human chain numbering in the thousands. Progressive workers of Kolkata in the state of West Bengal stood firmly made vows to resist any future act of aggression by the reactionary Hindutva forces.

'Scratch a liberal, find a fascist'

The U.S. ruling class' liberal Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recently gave a major award to Narendra Modi, leader of the BJP, because his government has helped build toilets and sanitation systems in India, although with questionable success (Washington Post, 9/6).

The capitalists' opportunism and hypocrisy know no limits! While the liberals shower praise on these fascists, Modi and his BJP have seized the regions of Jammu and Kashmir, placed millions of workers in Kashmir under blockade and are planning to deport hundreds of thousands of Muslims born in the Assam region of India. After U.S. President Donald Trump recently joined Modi at a stadium rally in Texas (called "Howdy, Modi!") and all but confirmed U.S. support for India in Kashmir, China's president Xi Jinping stated China "is watching Kashmir" and "supports Pakistan's core interests" (Xinhua News Agency, 10/9/19).

Darkening clouds of wider imperialist wars may threaten our class, but a mass, fighting PLP from Kolkata to Karachi to Brooklyn and Beijing can alter the bosses' murderous war plans completely. Taken further, a mass movement under the leadership of the international Progressive Labor Party and its Red Army can achieve the ultimate working-class goal of crushing the fascists and capitalism through communist revolution.

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Crush General Motors & Borders!

CHICAGO, October 7—The ongoing strike of close to 50,000 General Motors (GM) workers, now entering its fourth week, demonstrates the resilience and determination of the working class. They have braved the elements to maintain pickets for 24 hours a day, while earning just a fraction of their standard pay from the union strike fund. Workers from various different industries and unions, including steel and logistics workers, have demonstrated solidarity in both word and deed.

The GM strike also clearly revealed who the enemies and friends of autoworkers are. The United Automobile Workers union is a broker for labor, negotiating the workers' exploitation rates. The union's nationalism has led to ruining the lives of workers—from Canada and the U.S. to Mexico and worldwide. Workers can only rely on other workers. The highest manifestation of that solidarity and organization flows through an international communist organization: Progressive Labor Party.

Drive for maximum profit

However, the strike also brings to light many of the limits and contradictions of waging a nationally based labor struggle against an international business like GM. During the last decades of the past century, the auto bosses in the U.S. closed down many of their domestic plants, searching for cheaper labor costs in countries such as Mexico and India, as a means to better compete against the auto bosses in other countries. The sellout union leadership disarmed their rank and file membership for years to facilitate this de-industrialization. As it stands today, only 28 percent of GM's total workforce is within the U.S. (Market Watch, 9/24).

Hardly a week after the strike began and GM bosses countered the U.S. strike by laying off over 1,000 autoworkers in Canada, followed by another 6,000 layoffs in Silao, Mexico (CNBC, 10/1). The GM bosses were able to counter the work stoppage not only by tapping into their billions of dollars in past profits stolen from workers' labor, but also by exploiting the lack of class solidarity of workers in the same industry but living in different countries.

Auto union is a lemon

The UAW is a defunct institution that serves the system, not the workers. It is up to the autoworkers to organize across the bosses' racist borders to coordinate a unified struggle so that any advance for workers in one region wouldn't come at the expense of workers in another part of the world. But given their longstanding history of nationalism, the union misleaders will never do that.

Road to revolution

Therefore, it's on us as the international working class to unify our struggles, reject the bosses' borders, and nationalism, and really hit the capitalists where it hurts. Even better yet, we will win more workers through an international solidarity movement into the revolutionary PLP, and build a communist revolution that crushes the bosses with their system of profits and unemployment. We will organize an egalitarian society where the working class is in the driver's seat. ✪

Ecuador: Workers rebel vs. capitalist crisis

QUITO, ECUADOR, OCTOBER 9–Workers' anger and frustration exploded in Ecuador, paralyzing the country from Quito, the capital city, to the Pacific coast, storming and occupying the parliment building and sending President Lenin Moreno into hiding. These protests come after Moreno unveiled plans to impose austerity measures that threaten to plunge workers further into the abyss of poverty and capitalist exploitation. These massive protests across Ecuador demonstrate what the bosses fear most: workers, when organized and angry, have the power to bring the capitalist system to a screeching halt. However, absent communist politics and leadership, which Progressive Labor Party (PLP) strives to bring to these and all workers' struggles around the world, workers will be trapped in a revolving door of dead-end reforms that bring with them more economic crises and swindles from liberal politicians.

Workers halt business as usual

The unpopular measure, a $4.2 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which many refer to as "el Paquetazo" or "Big Package," includes a demand to end fuel subsidies. Gas prices have already soared to US$2.39 per liter from US$1.85, with diesel prices seeing a whopping 123 percent increase. The measures would also bring additional attacks on workers ranging from one days' work without pay for all public employees, to staggering price increases for basic necessities such as food and clothing (Reuters 10/4).

The agreement sparked protests, which began with strikes from transportation workers. The protests spread like wildfire across the country, mobilizing thousands of indigenous groups and students and bringing business as usual to a standstill.

Workers violently clashed with cops, set tires and state property ablaze, staged work stoppages and suspended schools and municipal services. Workers are calling for a resumption of the subsidies and the end of the Moreno government. The police, whose job is to protect the bosses and their system, responded by attacking protestors, resulting in 477 arrests and one death (Telesur, 10/6).

Splits in Ecuador's ruling class

The developments reflect the splits within Ecuador's ruling class. When Rafael Correa, the previous president, came to power, he was able to pacify workers with limited reforms funded by oil revenue. Like the situation in Venezuela, when oil prices crashed in 2008, the illusions that the fake leftists like Correa and Chavez had built a workers' paradise came crashing down – with help from U.S. foreign policy which sought to remove them. Unlike Maduro, who followed Chavez and moved to tie Venezuela's economy closer to Chinese imperialists, Moreno's response to the crisis has been to move closer to the U.S. This past May, he signed onto the Pacific Alliance, which Correa refused to join, locking arms with other faithful U.S. allies such as Colombia, Peru, and Mexico (Reuters 5/19). Meanwhile Maduro and Correa are calling for Moreno's ouster.

Reject Ecuadorian Nationalism

Ultimately Ecuador's ruling class is one of many pawns in the arena of inter-imperialist rivalry between U.S. and China, both of whom sought to buy allegiance from disparate sections of the Ecuadorean ruling class (and ruling classes throughout Latin America) through investments. Between 2005 and 2013, China accounted for 57 percent of all foreign investment in Ecuador (NYT, 7/15). As we have seen in neighboring Venezuela and in countries worldwide, choosing sides in the battle between rival capitalists, be they small-time local bosses or imperialist powers, is a deadly mistake for workers. Neither Moreno nor Correa, Maduro nor Guaidó (the U.S. puppet in Venezuela) represent a real, lasting solution for workers.

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U.S. DEMOCRACY IS NOT OURS TO SAVE; REBEL!

The New York Times (NYT) magazine on August 14, 2019 published a series of essays entitled, "The 1619 Project" that aims to tell the "true" story about slavery, racism and the impact of Black workers on American history. The essay by Nikole Hannah-Jones,criticizes the horrors of American slavery and anti-Black racism. While she describes the writers of the Declaration of Independence as slave owners, she explains this as "a nation founded on both an ideal and a lie." This is slick language, but it is more accurate to say that this "ideal" always was and still is a lie.

She starts by explaining how her father was right in hanging a "pristine" American flag in front of their house when she was a little girl because he knew that Black people's "contributions to building the richest and most powerful nation in the world were indelible,…" But the American flag is the flag of U.S. imperialism, led by the finance capitalists of Wall Street. It is the flag that led to the genocidal slaughter of Native Americans. Under that flag several million Vietnamese and 63,000 U.S. soldiers died. And 500,000 women and children were bombed to death in Iraq. And another world war looms in the future.

How hypocritical to say Black workers should be patriotic to a nation that continues to enslave them. She writes..."it was by virtue of our bondage that we became the most American of all." She combines the interests of Black workers to the needs of American capitalists. The Progressive Labor Party says "working people have no nations!" Workers have no shared interests with the capitalist rulers. We have no interest in fighting against other workers in imperialist wars that benefit billionaire capitalists. Yet Hannah-Jones would have Black workers lead the way: "In every war this nation has waged since that first one, Black Americans have fought…"

The 1619 Project serves the interests of the imperialist wing of the U.S. ruling class. They are preparing for the 2020 election as well as for the next world war. These Wall Street imperialists are desperate to defeat Trump and his isolationist foreign policy. They understand that winning Black workers to fight for capitalist "democracy" will influence other workers to follow. Claims of "uniting the country" by Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren translate to maximizing soldier recruits. These liberal bosses remain the main danger for the working class. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights for the interests of our entire class with a communist revolution, where Black workers will lead the fight!

Capitalist democracy designed to fail the working class

The 1619 Project has no class analysis. Hannah-Jones blames the super-exploitation of Black workers on white workers. She writes, "The many gains of Reconstruction were met with fierce white resistance throughout the South..." This ignores the fact that it was the former slave owners that organized racist groups like the Ku Klux Klan. Most white workers were living in extreme poverty, and the southern plantation owners had been pursuing a divide and conquer strategy since 1619 when Black workers first arrived as indentured servants, before being enslaved. They were similar to white indentured servants, socializing, marrying and having babies together. It took hundreds of years for the southern slave owners and northern capitalists to build racism to divide the working class, while increasing their profits. Yet Hannah-Jones constantly makes comments like "Jefferson's fellow white colonists" implying that a working class white sharecropper is the same as a plantation owner with several hundred slaves.

Anti-capitalist fightback, not the preservation of American"democracy"

The ruling class promotes voting as democracy. The 1619 Project is promoting Black workers as key in reforming the U.S. But believing in the "democratic" ideals of America is what keeps all workers from fighting to overthrow capitalism. Patriotism and reform will lead the working class to fight in the bosses' imperialist wars. We need communism, where the working class runs the world.

The 1619 Project conveniently leaves out our history of united working class fight back. The greatest fear in colonial America was that discontented white workers would join Black enslaved workers to overthrow the existing order. So the Virginia plantation owners passed many laws aimed at dividing white from Black. On May 1st in 1886 in Chicago over 300,000 workers led by an interracial couple, Lucy and Albert Parsons, showed how white, Black and immigrant workers could unite. They fought for the eight hour day. In 1932, Black Communist Party organizer Angelo Herndon and others organized a rally of 1,000 unemployed workers in Atlanta. 600 were white. They won $6,000 in relief for the jobless. The Civil Rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s challenged the capitalist system, and showed the power of Black and white struggle against racism. Progressive Labor Party played a leading role in many of these struggles.

Capitalist democracy spells death for workers

Black workers are key to communist revolution because they are internationally super-exploited by capitalism. The liberal ruling class understands this and seeks to use Black workers to save their system as the "perfectors of democracy." They hope to squelch any Black militant fight back and steer Black workers to patriotism instead. Propagandizing pieces like the 1619 Project emphasize Black reformist struggles, while ignoring the anti-capitalist, multi-racial, international, and pro-communist struggles of Black workers throughout history. The liberal, imperialist ruling class wants Black workers to fight in wars to save their declining empire. In the name of fighting for "democracy," Black workers will be sent to die for a system that doesn't benefit our class. The situation for the working class looks bleak, because the communist movement is small. However PLP is on the rise as workers fight, and it's on us to turn these reformist struggles into a fight for communism. ✪

Kolkota students fight local fascist scum

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Fightback in Kolkata has international consequences

The militant, anti-fascist bravery of these students and workers sets an example for all of us. India is soon to be the most populous country on earth. Meanwhile, the liberal misleadership of the fake "opposition" Congress Party leads the workers and students into the trap of elections and the liberal strain of fascism. History has shown that it is only mass communist-led workers' movements that can hold back the fascists!

The connections between the class struggle in Kolkata and the international working class are deep, as the sharpening imperialist rivalry between the U.S., Russia, and China threatens our class with all-out war.

While still the world's most lethal empire, U.S. imperialism is increasingly straining to hold itself together. India's capitalists are key U.S. imperialist allies countering Chinese imperialism's growing influence with Pakistan's capitalists, fueling India and Pakistan's regional imperialist rivalry over the water-rich region of Kashmir.

Turn mass struggle into revolution

In India, many phony groups have used the word "communism" to betray the working class. We expose these phonies and fight for workers and students to build on the powerful ideas pioneered by scientific communist fighters like Marx and Lenin to create a mass Party with the principles anti-racist and anti-sexist revolutionary communism.The Progressive Labor Party is working internationally to build such a Party. With the leadership of heroic workers and students such as the ones from JU and Kolkata, our Party can unite the working class of the world to resist international fascism and war and destroy capitalism forever. ✪

Liberal bosses' venomous sting

The "Scorpion and the Frog" is an old fable but still useful. Our class is continually besieged by the liberal bosses to help them. Every time, they turn on our class as soon as it is politically convenient for them. Until we gain the confidence in our class to fight without the liberal bosses leadership we will continue to get stung.

The Scorpion and the Frog

A scorpion and a frog meet on the bank of a stream and the scorpion asks the frog to carry him across on its back. The frog asks, "How do I know you won't sting me?" The scorpion says, "Because if I do, I will die too."

The frog is satisfied, and they set out, but in midstream, the scorpion stings the frog. The frog feels the onset of paralysis and starts to sink, knowing they both will drown, but has just enough time to gasp "Why?"

Replies the scorpion: "It's my nature..."

Stranger Things: Imperial nostalgia & red scare

The premise of the Netflix original series *Stranger Things* began simply enough: a boy goes missing near a top-secret government laboratory. An adventure ensues as the teenage protaganists go on the hunt for answers, witnessing strange things along the way: supernatural forces, a top secret government experiment, and a girl with telekinetic powers.

The latest season is a celebration of retro consumerism and anti-communism. The storyline, set in the 1980s American Midwest, tells the tale that the greatest evil the working class has to face during an era of Reagonomics, Cold War imperialism, and rampant racism are Soviet Russians. Yet CHALLENGE recognizes that this storyline is a distorted version of history, far from the truth.

This current period, where U.S. imperialism is in decline and world war with China and Russia looms, a nostalgic look when the U.S. Empire still ranked supreme is helpful to the ruling class. The liberal ruling-class media loves to use anti-communism as a tool to build U.S. nationalism and anti-Russian ideas that can be used for war.

The Russian villain trope

Today's public anti-Russian paranoia since the 2016 presidential election prepares society for a real conflict between these two imperialist powers. Seen through this lens, a show like *Stranger Things* is part of that war effort. The show is set at a time when anti-Soviet propaganda was as American as apple pie, a campaign spearheaded by the Democratic Party and its liberal media outlets. This season mimics the anti-communist hysteria of the '80s, as seen in movies like Red Dawn (1984). The main difference between then and now is the relative decline of U.S. power.

The new season begins with capitalist USSR hitman Grigori and a room full of scientists, one that goes unnamed and another named Alexei, who goes on to become a class traitor and is seen peering into a glass with a machine behind it. Three men have been electrocuted by the Russians' inadequate technology. The head scientist utters in Russian, "Comrade General, we are close. You can see our progress. We just need more ti—" his statement is cut off by Grigori who proceeds to lift the pitiful scientist by his neck and choke him.

The Russian men are downright evil towards the workers. That is NOT how communists roll. To top it off, the choice of using communist lingo among villains mocks the history. While the Soviet Union had already reversed into capitalism, it's convenient for the capitalist media to build U.S. patriotism through anti-communist packaging.

The camera pans from the lab to the mountains of what's assumed to be Russia. The head general and Grigori walk towards their private helicopter above a snowy, gray castle mounted with a waving communist flag. THIS is the headquarters of evil—far from the American suburbs filled with green pastures and segregated pools.

A dangerous nostalgia for 1980s America

Stranger Things reflects a time when racist free-market economics was at its peak: "A free-market economic system can be both impossibly damaging to small businesses (see: the new arrival of the Starcourt Mall in Hawkins) and a preferable alternative to the authoritarian communism of America's 1980s enemies" (The Atlantic, 7/4). This damage is evidenced by signs around town that read "Save Downtown, no to Mall." One character, pitches a story about the displacement of small stores to the executives of their local newspaper but the all-male newsroom mocks her.

Beneath the center of impulse shopping, overconsuming and wage slavery the scene poses a greater threat—the Russian conspiracy. The danger of this message is that it misleads people to believe that Russia is exclusively linked with communism, and communism with terrorism.

Class betrayals

Another layer of this anti-communism is exhibited through Murray the Russian translator and Alexei. The journalist and the translator take Alexei hostage. These two become the best of friends as Alexei transforms and sells his loyalty to the Americans through 7/11 slushees, carnival games, and fast food. The joys of American consumerism can turn a cold-hearted Russian soft and move him in the "RIGHT" direction.

Erica, 10-year-old sister to protagonist Lucas doesn't need to be turned since she already values U.S. capitalism. When characters ask Erica to spy on the Russians by climbing through an air duct, she mentions what she loves most about America—the free market system and makes her own demands for a lifetime supply of "U.S.S. butterscotch" ice cream. The only Black girl in the season is inexplicably pro-capitalist and anti-communist. Funny how the most exploited and oppressed under capitalism—Black woman workers—are portrayed as the biggest supporters of their own demise.

Who's the monster?

The illusion of a nostalgic 1980s U.S. that *Stranger Things* sells must be broken. Without a proper criticism within the story, *Stranger Things* amounts to a cultural celebration of the U.S. as the ultimate anti-communist settlement and furthers that sentiment with its capitalistic pursuits.

Weeks after the series premiere, Baskin Robbins released a *Stranger Things* ice cream flavor campaign for the U.S.S. Butterscotch. How do we go from aliens and nostalgia-based fiction to capitalistic promotion? Let the ruling class tell it and the 'threat' is always external, never the system itself but in this case, it's the Soviet Union, an otherworldly evil.

This connects to today's present news as the ruling class, liberal politicians, and businesses are described as necessary evils while the real evil that's promoted are the communists, and immigrants, here to only inflict violence against patriotic Americans and their values. Like most anti-communist propaganda, the evils that they attribute to communism are already alive inside capitalism. What *Stranger Things* is projecting as the Soviet nightmare, is simply a reflection of the U.S.'s own capitalist culture.

Stranger Things started off as a show about monsters, but fails to call the real one out. As you watch the show, be critical of this propaganda and push back for the whole international working class.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

continued from page 4

Ecuador: Workers rebel vs. capitalist crisis

Turn reform into revolution

We salute these workers who bravely challenge the exploitation and oppression that capitalism has wrought upon them. Their militancy

and willingness to battle against the police and army is an inspiration to workers everywhere. Yet, these battles are for reforms—to return the country to a Correa-style social democracy. But we must realize that the shaky ground on which these reforms are built. When the economy crashes, as it always does under capitalism, the reforms vanish. We have seen it over and over again.

PLP seeks to take the fighting spirit so valiantly on display in Ecuador (and among auto workers in the U.S., and youth against climate change, and more), and combine it with communist politics and leadership. This is the key to the liberation of the workers of the world. Join us!✪

★★★★★

Know your neighbor, fight for housing!

Two months ago, we received a notice on our door. We were shocked to find a 34 percent rent increase! We didn't see notices on our immediate neighbors' doors, so we thought we were alone. Our club encouraged us to not make any assumptions and knock on everyone's door to find out if anyone else had received notices. It turned out that about half the units had gotten increases, most more than 10 percent.

As we talked to our neighbors, some of them for the very first time, we found that this rent increase was not the only problem we shared. Everyone had trouble getting the onsite manager to respond to requests for maintenance. Repairs were taking months to complete and were not done well. Some units did not have properly working stoves or sufficient hot water.

We shared a sample letter to send to protest the price gouging. We also called a meeting with friends who work in the Tenants Union to discuss what we could do to fight back. The next day, we received a 60-day notice, effectively terminating our monthly lease agreement.

Even though only one neighbor came to the first meeting, we continued to try and get more neighbors on board. Some were scared of retaliation, some decided to move out, but everyone agreed that the increases were too high. Landlords are organizing themselves to implement evictions and rent increases before the new rent cap and eviction protections go into effect in January. An aerospace company called SpaceX and the football stadium are in neighboring Inglewood; landlords want to maximize their profits and start gentrifying our working-class neighborhood.

A month later, two more tenants received notices of increases. This time it was the Section 8 tenants and their increases were 30 to 40 percent! We had two more meetings where we talked about forming a tenants association and drafted a letter of demands to send to the landlord. By this time there were only 14 of 20 units occupied. We were able to get nine units to sign the letter informing management that we were forming a tenants association. The letter also included our demands, including no evictions and no rent increases.

We had to move out, but the struggle continues. Homelessness has risen 12 percent in Los Angeles County by conservative estimates. We will keep meeting with our ex-neighbors and get to know our new ones. Never underestimate the power of base building. Getting to know your neighbors is the best way to be ready when capitalism attacks.

★★★★★

Baraka's lies as toxic as lead

The Newark water crisis is not a human rights crisis. It is a political one. After attending the Water Town Hall organized by the city of Newark, I decided to walk out with a few comrades. Ras Baraka, the Mayor of Newark, never acknowledged that the Water Coalition has been trying to get a meeting with him for a month. Instead, he went on to say that the Water Coalition, an advocacy group, was distracting everyone from hearing the information. There were people in the audience who felt very deeply about the police force getting "hecklers" out of the audience.

I knew it was fishy when the only question that was posed came in the form of a prerecorded video from a resident who stopped by one of the recreation centers to participate in water distribution. Why not invite this young lady to the Newark Water Town Hall so she could ask this question in person? Why have slips of paper outside of the NJPAC center to write questions if they were never answered?

In the end, the meeting was traumatizing and confusing. The information being presented was contradictory. One person on the panel said apartment buildings don't have lead service lines. But a woman from Trenton said it's important to get water tested if you live in an apartment building. If you've ever been in an abusive relationship this town hall definitely felt like psychological abuse and gas-lighting. This meeting was only meant to distract from the seriousness of the issues, and shift the blame to the residents who may have missed all of the contradictory and confusing letters mailed in 2017. Worse still, the Mayor kept urging residents to focus on the bright side: millions of dollars were obtained to fix the lead service lines. There wasn't an apology. It was more of a stunt to convince people to be grateful that the city got these money deals to go through despite many of us still being poisoned.

There are failing infrastructures all across the nation because of this rotten system called capitalism. The Mayor wants to keep this issue on the hush because he's only concerned about investment in the city. There's still no oversight or guarantee that the money is even being used to replace the lead service lines. Now vulnerable populations like seniors and children are stuck without water, and we have to travel to other places to get drinkable water. All because these deceptive city officials can't get us filters that actually work.The residents just want transparency. But all capitalist politicians lack integrity.

★★★★★

Study & action necessary!

We are a group of Progressive Labor Party professors in the South Bronx.This semester, we are participating in the movement on our campuses to call for a strike against tuition increases and for a decent wage for part-time faculty. (Over the past few years, we have been involved in many struggles, from defending immigrant students who were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to standing up against racist police murders, and supporting undocumented workers who were being exploited by a local restaurant.)

We always had informal CHALLENGE reading groups. We put forward the idea that students are the main victims of the capitalist education system, that elections won't solve our problems, that multiracial unity is a key weapon we must build, and during this period that we must break the bosses' law (the Taylor Law) and strike.

A significant step forward for us is a new study group we formed with students who come from West Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. We are about the history of PLP. In these conversations, we are trying to draw historical lessons about how the early Party members participated in the class struggle and fought for communist ideas. We discussed the poem "Kids Who Die" by Langston Hughes and some of the comments that were made at a recent PLP meeting. We looked at the efforts of PL members during the Hazard Miners strike, the 1964-65 Longshore strike, and the DC Transit workers.

We are starting to talk about how to apply these ideas on our campuses. What does it mean to be in a mass organization? How can we use CHALLENGE to advance, or start, a struggle? In our next meeting, we will be discussing the historic occupation of the Mack Avenue auto plant in Detroit and comparing it with the GM strike today. We'll also talk about how and why students should support the strike.

Right now, we are struggling over the question of voting in our discussions, but there is much agreement with a communist analysis and a serious commitment to learning and doing more with PLP. We look forward to more students joining the group and deepening our knowledge of revolutionary ideas and practice!

★★★★★

Don't just read CHALLENGE, sell it!

I finally committed myself to sell CHALLENGE out on the streets of Paterson, NJ, also known as, "The Silk City" for its mass production of silk during the industrial revolution in the 19th century. This city has since evolved into a melting pot for immigrant workers that hail from Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. All of these racially diverse workers represent the potential for change and fight back against the bosses, who suppress the working class through capitalist ideology. This was another big step towards appreciating Progressive Labor Party. As I stood on the corner I was able to relate to many workers as I passed CHALLENGE with confidence and trust that the words within the paper have the potential to transform their consciousness to a higher level. CHALLENGE is a tool to reach workers and give them hope that there are working class struggles happening internationally and in their own neighborhoods. This sale helped me overcome my cynicism, to see that the fight for communism also begins with me.

★★★★★

Abolish the capitalist polis

The CHALLENGE article titled "Justice for Rashad—Abolish the Police!"(9/11) presented a sharp analysis of the role of the police in enacting racist violence and serving ruling-class interests.It is not entirely accurate, however, to restrict the history of the police by stating that "the police force descends from the slave patrols—a militia hired by the enslavers to police and capture runaway enslaved people and punish rebels."

This is definitely true of the U.S. South, and helps to explain the enduring pattern of police racism throughout the U.S. But the origin of the word "police" is "polis," meaning "state."

In the nineteenth century, the police evolved as a means for the owners of property to control the "dangerous classes" through state power. Amid the mounting wave of class struggle after the U.S. Civil War, the police were used repeatedly to break strikes, often very violently. This pattern continues to this day—not just in the U.S., but also around the world.

When Progressive Labor Party calls for multiracial unity in the demand to "abolish the police," this history should be borne in mind. It is in the interest of all workers, of all backgrounds, to understand that antiracism is the front line of the struggle to defend all workers from the bosses and their "polis."

★★★★★

Boston:

Nurses in every school, still need communism

BOSTON, OCTOBER 9—For the last nine years, Progressive Labor Party and its allies have been fighting for a nurse in every Boston public school. Led by a core group, many nurses, with support from other union members, fought for this demand and we finally won. It is a sad commentary on this capitalist society that it took nine years to win such a basic necessity. It is also a testament to the heroic workers who persevered in this struggle. Now we need a further commitment to get rid of this capitalist system once and for all. We need a revolution for communism where the working class organizes health care for everyone.

For safety, a nurse must be present in a school to cover emergencies. But also 1/3 of our students have chronic health conditions, such as asthma and diabetes, that must be managed by a school nurse daily or as-needed. School nurses also provide a safe place for children worried about abusive situations, homelessness, fear of deportation raids, hunger, and difficult family situations.

Students in working class neighborhoods, primarily Black and Latin, have more chronic health problems, more homelessness, and need MORE support from a school nurse to help them stay healthy and improve their learning experiences. So in effect, a nurse in every school is an anti-racist struggle to equalize health care. Even though inequality will always persist as long as we have capitalism, we must have confidence in the working class to fight to control all aspects of society.

That's working class power – communism.

When the struggle began, if a nurse was sick and couldn't find a substitute, another nurse would have to leave their school and cover at the absent nurse's school. And, a number of nurses were already covering two schools! We first fought for more substitute nurses and, through the union contract, we won six "float" nurses. To win this struggle, we spoke often at union membership meetings, at open school committee meetings, and at Boston City Council hearings. Nurses also reached out to parents of children in their schools to speak out against unsafe conditions. We asked all nurses to document unsafe conditions in their school, modifying a survey provided by the Massachusetts Nursing Association. The nurses covering two schools were the main responders about stressful and unsafe staffing situations. We used the survey to involve more nurses in the struggle. Nurses who were voted into union-leadership roles used their positions to serve both the nurses and the students (as a communist would), not to build our careers (as capitalist ideology would dictate).

These days the job of a school nurse is much more complex and time-consuming. We manage diabetics, life-threatening allergies, daily medications, mental health issues, children who formerly would be hospitalized but now depend on a school nurse to maintain their health, and more.

After our long struggle, the union leadership agreed to make a-nurse-in-every-school the #1 contract demand, and it is now part of the Boston Teachers' Union contract! Under communism there will be no shortage of nurses and all workers needs will be met. We won this battle. Let's keep fighting for a better world – communism! Dare to struggle, dare to win! ✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Tree of 'liberation' bears no fruit for workers

NYT, 9/29 — Soweto, South Africa — Agnes Sehole had rats on her roof, candles for light, paraffin for heating and a message for the world about her famous hometown. "It's getting worse," said Ms. Sehole, 77, sitting in one of the two rooms in her house in Soweto. "there's nothing that I've experienced of the 'new' South Africa."

Soweto, once the country's largest black township, was a symbol of the united resistance to the racist apartheid regime….where the police killed 176 protesting schoolchildren during the Soweto Uprising of 1976….

Today, Soweto embodies the social and class divisions within South Africa's black majority. It is a place of flashy cars and grand mansions, but also of shanty towns and high unemployment….

…Where Ms. Sehole lives,…[is] a warren of unpaved allies….The area is arguably in worse shape than when Ms. Sehole first moved here in 1966….

For several weeks this year, she was forced to use candles and paraffin when the whole area's power supply was cut off….

"Did you say things have changed?" asked Seth Mazibukom, sarcastically. As a 15-year-old in 1976. Mr. Mazibuko was a leader of the student uprising that made Soweto famous around the world, and led the state to murder so may of his friends and schoolmates….

But Mr. Mazibuko said the economic dividends…have been shared far less equally than he had hoped.

Much of the economy and land is still controlled by the white minority….Unemployment remains almost as high as it was in 1974; over half of people younger than 35 are jobless….

"The tree of liberation that we watered with our blood — we're not enjoying the fruit of that tree," said Mr. Mazibuko….

Many poor South Africans believe electricity should be free…particularly in areas like Soweto where unemployment is so high. They feel they are paying the price for the corruption of…the African National Congress, whose former leadership is enmeshed in multiple graft scandals, including within the electricity sector.

Racist medical bias against working-class parents

NYT, 8/25 — When a child experiences a mild head injury and a parent seeks medical attention, what happens next in New York City seems to depend on the color of their skin and their zip code.

…The actress Jenny Mollen…and resident of Manhattan's affluent West Village, announced… that she had accidentally dropped her 5-year-old son, causing a skull fracture and requiring treatment in…a private Manhattan hospital's I.C.U.

…Several miles north in the Bronx,…a Latina mom…saw her 9-month-old daughter and 7-year-old son bump heads while playing….She took the baby to her pediatrician, and a follow-up at the hospital showed two minor skull fractures….This is where…[the] stories diverge….Mrs. Mollen's… account…[was[met with compassion and sympathy by the hospital staff,…saying she was "forever grateful."

At the Bronx hospital, [the Latina mom]…was met with suspicion, interrogation and accusations of child abuse, even after explaining her daughter's accidental head bump….When the baby was ready for discharge, without requiring any medical treatment, A.C.S. told her parents that they could not take her home...

Without any evidence of wrongdoing, A.C.S. filed a petition…accusing her and her husband of child abuse by intentionally causing their daughter's skull fractures. A.C.S asked the judge to… keep the children out of their parents' home….

…Mild skull fractures in young mobile children commonly result from accidents and generally do not require treatment other than observation….

Research shows that black and Hispanic pediatric emergency room patients with minor head trauma are two to four times more likely to be…reported (as suspected abusive head trauma) when compared with white non-Hispanic patients.

U.S. murder of Afghan civilians drones on

NYT, 9/20 — Afghan civilians continued to die by the dozens…in violent attacks….

At least 30 people were killed and 28 wounded in the drone attack in Nangarhar Province…local officials…blamed United States aircraft….Some of the victims had gathered to harvest pine nuts at the time of the attack….

In the first six months of this year, American and Afghan Air Force strikes killed 363 civilians and injured 156, a 39 percent increase in civilian casualties from the same period in 2018….

So far this year, the number of American air-dropped missiles and bombs in Afghanistan is set to…possible outpace the 7,362 munitions launched in all of 2018.

U.S. recessions keep rolling on

Shadowstats, 8/19 — Yes, Chairman Powell, there really is a recession, and it is getting worse. It is felt and seen increasingly on Main Street, U.S.A., which never really recovered from the 2008 banking collapse and Great Recession.

Real average weekly earnings…are on…a second consecutive quarterly decline….

Third-quarter 2019 industrial production is [in]…its third consecutive quarterly decline…. Retails sales of automobiles turned down anew….

Construction spending fell into annual decline for the first time since the onset of the Great Recession

LIBERAL FASCISTS TRY TO SMASH GUTTER RACIST TRUMP

The opening of the Trump impeachment inquiry by the Nancy Pelosi-led big fascist liberal bosses is a sharpening of the battle between the big and small fascist factions of the U.S. ruling class. The escalation in this fight between fascists exposes the desperation of the big fascist liberal bosses to take back the White House from their small fascist rivals, even if it means gutting the presidency - one of the ruling class' key institutions. Since the main wing/big fascist faction of the U.S. ruling class is unsure it can win the 2020 election, they are taking this opportunity to try to smash Trump and his small fascist backers now.

The liberals or the big fascists have never cared about keeping children out of cages or any of Trump's other atrocities. They pioneered them all. But world events are putting pressure on the big fascists to do something to hold onto their own murderous empire.

The fight among the U.S. bosses competing factions is happening as competition among capitalists around the world is moving towards more fascism and bigger wars. Tensions between Saudi and Iranian ruling class forces threaten to explode at any moment. Coupled with their own fascist crackdowns in Hong Kong and Xinjiang, the Chinese bosses continue to lay the groundwork for wider imperialist expansion by winning a new generation of young people to nationalism like never before (NYT 10/6). The liberal big fascist U.S. bosses want one of their own butchers in the White House, not a president like Trump, tied to the domestically-oriented small fascist bosses like the Koch family who have their own more limited-view of empire.

Reject both sets of bosses

The increasing intensity of this ruling class split means each side of bosses will fight harder to win workers to support their faction. We must put our confidence in the working class. There is no doubt: Trump is a gutter racist and open fascist who is also exploiting his base for personal gain. But it will take more than understanding how horrible Trump is to liberate our class. Our biggest danger is that too many workers have ceded leadership of our class to the big fascist liberals. Their movements and politicians are in place to serve the interests of the oldest, most diversified and imperialist wing of the capitalist class whose rule has and will continue to devastate the international working class through rac-

ism, growing fascism and widening war. Our future lies in building Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and fighting for communist revolution to build a society led by the working class. Read, distribute and write for CHALLENGE newspaper!

A volatile situation

It is unclear how the impeachment battle will play out. The big fascists are struggling. Their loss of control of the Republican Party has been brewing since the 1990s impeachment of Bill Clinton and was intensified by the Tea Party's openly racist anti-Obama movement. Thirty-seven state Republican Party organizations have adopted new rules that will effectively ban anti-Trump speeches at the 2020 Republican National Convention (NYT,10/2/19).

As this U.S. ruling class split intensifies and the domestic small fascist bosses more completely take control over the Republican Party, the big fascists have been forced to try to create an unwieldy mass movement under the Democratic Party tent. But the big fascist bosses controlled Democratic Party may be too frgamented by discord to get the White House back for the big fascist liberal bosses. The impeachment push, then, also flows from a lack of confidence that the big fascist liberal bosses can come up with a winning strategy for the 2020 election. Weakening or getting rid of Trump by election time has become an urgent matter for them. Behind all the layers of craven self-serving behavior in the Ukraine episode is the clear-as-day reality that Trump plans to keep his deal with the small fascist domestic bosses going until at least 2024 if re-elected.

As Richard Haass, head of the blood-soaked, liberal-imperialist Council on Foreign Relations put it, the Trump presidency, at this moment, is the number one threat to the big fascist's liberal world order (CFR, 3/19). After Trump's determination to discredit the FBI and CIA it appears unlikely right now that significant portions of the coercive state apparatus will assist him in resisting removal from office.

As they struggle to regain control of the White House, the big fascist liberal bosses remain the greater danger. They control the biggest industries and have the most resources. Over many decades they have themselves carried out a vicious assault on the working class and built up the racism, which Trump has re-fashioned into a tool against the big fascists. Their shiny liberal rhetoric can't erase their policies which led to the mass incarceration of Black workers carried out by the Clinton's, and Joe Biden's, mass deportations under Obama, and his bailing out the banks at the expense of the working class, nor the stop and frisk policies devastating young Black and Latin men and the slaughter of workers in the Mid-East oil wars over the last 20 years.

The liberal big fascist bosses defend their racist regime through overwhelming control of the media, universities, big-city school systems, think tanks and foundations that work overtime to shape our political views and culture. Most importantly, even accounting for the openly racist supporters following Trump, the big fascist liberal bosses exert tremendous control over the leadership of our class through the unions, politicians, mass organizations, movements and culture they finance. Like a wounded animal they are looking to attack harder.

During this, volatile period the liberal fascists calls for unity against Trump will try to mobilize people to support a state that attacks the working class. Communism not liberalism is our way out of this nightmare.

Shedding the bosses' leadership is the hard task at hand for the working class. We can only do this when we join the movements led by liberal fascists and, through class struggle, reveal not just their inability to fulfill our aspirations for the world our class deserves, but their plans to lead us into wider war and more open fascism. Most importantly, through taking control of the class struggle away from the liberal big fascists our class will gain the confidence to fight for a communist working class led society. We must build a communist movement, the Progressive Labor Party. As long as we are trapped by the cynical idea that our class can't lead society, we will follow the bosses into war and fascism. Breaking free of the bosses' leadership and building a communist led workers movement will put us on the road to communist revolution, a worker's led society and liberation for our class. Join PLP!

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